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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 001450

SIPDIS

WHA/CCA, EUR/UBI

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [CU](#) [NL](#)

SUBJECT: DUTCH REACTION TO CUBAN CRACKDOWN

REF: A. (A) SECSTATE 152061

[B](#). (B) HAVANA 8955

Classified By: Acting Political Counselor Nathaniel P. Dean for reasons
1.5 (b) and (d).

(C) PolOff met with Jan Jaap Groenemeijer, Senior Staff Officer of Central America and Caribbean Division at the MFA, to discuss the Dutch response to the recent crackdown in Cuba on pro-democracy activists. Groenemeijer stated that the Dutch support the points in ref A and have not only made a symbolic gesture of inviting pro-democracy activists to the Dutch Mission in Havana's National Day celebrations last April, but also are discouraging high-level government to government visits. He indicated that the EU is discussing the best strategy to approach this issue to put pressure on Castro to release the prisoners of conscience. Groenemeijer agreed that the USG and the EU should be working together towards a joint initiative. He inquired whether the USG has finalized a policy on this issue and opined that he believes that the USG should focus on supporting civil society in Cuba.
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